(d) The Ministry of Power does not allocate funds for power generation to States. However, the Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reforms envisaging support of Central Government subject to State progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds under the APDRP for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter-alia,* reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, reduction of cash losses through grants. Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power like Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation provide funds for investment in the Power Sector.

Under APDRP, schemes amounting to Rs. 1511.40 crores have been sanctioned in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 566.76 crores released upto 31st March, 2005.

Draft Power Tariff Policy

†3674. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent a draft power tariff policy to the State Governments;

(b) if so, when this draft was sent;

(c) the subjects mentioned therein and whether the draft would be helpful in fixing the uniform power tariff throughout the country; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that setting rates of power are likely to go up on the basis of this draft?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of section 3 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government is required to be prepare a tariff policy in consultation with the State Governments. A draft policy was sent to the States *vide* letter dated 16.3.2005 for their comments.

(c) and (d) The draft tariff policy lays down approach for determination of the tariffs for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Uniform power tariff throughout the country is not envisaged.

One of the objectives of the draft policy is to ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable rates.

Package for rural electrification to Uttar Pradesh

†3675. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sought special financial package from Government for providing electricity in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to provide special financial package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched on 4th April, 2005 for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Households in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformers(s) in very village/Habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme provides for electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.